

**Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island  
Strategic Development Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 23, 2008**

**Members Present:** Paul Harden, Fred Pendlebury, Susan O'Donnell, Evaristo Amaral, Nancy Roderick, and Christine Grieco.

**Members Absent:** John Iaderosa, Fred Ricci, Betty Pleacher, Bob Cooper, and Jane Nugent.

**Guests / Staff Attending:** Mavis McGetrick, Nick Ucci, and Gail DuPont

**With a quorum present at 9:00 AM, Chairman Paul Harden called the meeting to order and asked the committee to review the minutes from the meetings on February 22, 2008 and April 18, 2008.**

**VOTE:** Nancy Roderick motioned to approve the February 22, 2008 minutes as written, Christine Grieco seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**VOTE:** Fred Pendlebury motioned to approve the April 18, 2008 minutes as written, Paul Harden seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**Adult Training Program Update:**

**H1B Update:** Nick stated that the program will be ending in June and money is still being obligated. An event is scheduled for June 27, 2008 to celebrate the end of the grant and recognize the accomplishments of everyone who participated in this grant initiative.

Staff is working on a report highlighting success stories.

**STEM Grant Update:** Nick informed the committee that no award decision has been made at this time.

**ITA Cap:** Nick surveyed the ITA caps in Massachusetts and Connecticut as a comparison to Rhode Island's current level. Nick presented a chart listing the ITA obligations and costs in Rhode Island. The mean cost is \$5,446.24 with a median cost of \$4,000.00. Staff in One-Stop Centers report that it is extremely difficult for people to use money out of pocket to finance courses when they are financially restricted. Paul Harden questioned whether raising the cap would make training cost more rather than training more people. Everett Amaral questioned if courses could be funded on a tiered basis. Nick stated that raising the cap would assist clients by making training more affordable. Nick continued to state that he has investigated the tier practice and found that not only would it be difficult to manage, but could favor some occupations/industries over others and weaken the customer-driven nature of WIA-funded services, contrary to the spirit of the legislation.

**VOTE:** Paul Harden motioned to recommend to the Board that the

**ITA cap be raised to \$5,500 effective July 1, 2008, with a review in December 2008. Nancy Roderick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Susan O'Donnell and Nancy Roderick recused themselves from the meeting.**

### **Industry Skill Development Initiative RFP**

**Nick explained that an internal review meeting was held on May 5, 2008 to determine eligibility threshold ratings of the five proposals received. Four proposals – submitted by My Turn (Marine Trades), Tech Collective (IT), Providence Plan/Building Future (Construction), and RI Hospitality & Tourism Association - scored above the Initial Review Threshold score and were then subject to a Comprehensive Proposal Narrative Review on May 21, 2008. Overall, the readers were very impressed with the proposals and recommended submission of all four proposals to the Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIB) for funding. Nick explained that once they have been approved by both boards, the LWIBs will then discuss which proposals each will manage directly.**

**VOTE: Paul Harden moved to approve the four proposals and to recommend to the Executive Committee that the WPGRI staff negotiate with the approved vendors. Christine Grieco seconded and the motion was approved by all.**

**The two recused committee members rejoined the meeting.**

## **WIA Plan Modification #2**

**Nick informed the committee that the purpose of this modification is to present Program Year 2007 and Program Year 2008 allocated funding and projected service levels for Rhode Island Youth served with Job Development Funds (JDF). He explained that these funds were allocated to the WPGRI by the Governor's Workforce Board RI (GWBRI). He noted that the redesigned system is focused around Youth Centers located at One-Stop Centers and other satellite centers that serve all youth with varying levels of support. The system is designed so that all Youth will be registered through a Youth Center and tracked in one system, even if they are primarily receiving services off-site.**

**VOTE: Paul Harden motioned to approve the modification and recommend it to the Executive Committee. Nancy Roderick seconded and the motion was approved by all.**

## **New Business:**

**Everett Amaral asked about the apprenticeship evaluation by Coffee Consultants. Christine Grieco explained that the project is on hold pending funding approval. Paul Harden suggested a special meeting be scheduled this summer to discuss apprenticeship only. Everyone agreed this would be a good idea.**

**Being no further business to come before the Board, Paul Harden moved to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Roderick approved and Christine Grieco seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 A.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Gail DuPont**

**Administrative Assistant**